

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 12

By Trail

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Halie Jacobs for her great courage and resourcefulness.

WHEREAS, Over much of its history, Tennessee has been known as the Volunteer State, because it has been the home of so many valiant men, women and children who have responded with great courage and strength of character in times of trouble and adversity, whether in war or peace; and

WHEREAS, One such outstanding Tennessean is seven-year-old Halie Jacobs of Normandy, who on the night of Wednesday, July 10, 2002, acted with courage and resourcefulness to seek aid for her mother who was severely injured in a wreck; and

WHEREAS, On that foggy July night, a little before midnight, Halie and her mother Crystal were returning to the Normandy home of Kenny Jacobs, their father and grandfather, driving on Rowesville Road just off Highway 41-A, when their car hydroplaned, ramming into an embankment alongside Shippman's Creek and stopping in a ditch; and

WHEREAS, Crystal Jacobs was thrown face-first into the car's windshield, breaking her nose, sinus cavities and other facial bones; bleeding heavily, she fell toward Halie in the passenger seat, who had herself suffered a broken bone in her foot; and

WHEREAS, Halie, though frightened by the accident, her mother's injuries and heavy bleeding, and the dark and foggy night, talked to her mother until Crystal could no longer

respond; she then climbed into the back seat, where she could open a door, and set off barefoot to seek help at her grandfather's house; and

WHEREAS, Initially disoriented by the darkness and fog, she walked .3 mile back to Highway 41-A; realizing her mistake, she reversed course and walked along Rowesville Road to Normandy Road and onto Dement Road. Along the way she passed a house with lights on, but elected to pass as she did not know the residents; she was chased by two barking dogs as she ran, but they stopped when she slowed to a walk; and

WHEREAS, At last, after her more than two-mile journey, she knocked on the door of her grandfather's house; covered with blood and having suffered a sprained ankle, she told Teressia Jacobs that she and her mother had had a wreck at the end of the road. Only then, in the arms of her family and with the knowledge that emergency help had been summoned, did Halie allow herself to cry, fearing for the life of her mother and remembering the traumatic accident; and

WHEREAS, Teressia drove back to the wreck site with the reluctant Halie who feared for her mother's condition; the EMS workers arrived to find Crystal on the passenger's side, having attempted to open the passenger side door. She was taken by ambulance to Bedford County Medical Center and then on to Vanderbilt University Medical Center for initial treatment; and

WHEREAS, Now recovered from reconstructive surgery, Crystal has said, "Halie saved my life. She is a very special person." Halie is a blond-haired, blue-eyed second grader at Cascade School who now wears an angel pin given to her by her proud and grateful mother; and

WHEREAS, Bedford County's 911 program honored Halie for her heroism, presenting her with a medal, plaque and T-shirt as an E-911 hero; on November 14, Halie and her mother flew to New York City to be filmed for the "Hometown Heroes" segment of "The John Walsh Show" which aired in December. Halie and other young local heroes each received a medal; and

WHEREAS, Halie Jacobs clearly demonstrated bravery and self possession far in excess of what might be expected from one so young; her courage and strength of character are clearly deserving of special recognition and praise; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Halie Jacobs of Normandy for her outstanding demonstration of courage, resourcefulness and presence of mind, as we join with her mother and other family members, her schoolmates, the people of Bedford, Coffee and Moore Counties and all the citizens of Tennessee in expressing our admiration and appreciation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we offer our best wishes to Halie and her family for every success and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.